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BOSTON, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1866.

THE BIBLE AND CONGREGATIONAL

SINGING.
That music has from the earliest period of time been regarded as one of the greatest means of expressing adoration and praise to Almighty God, is a truth which must be obvious to the mind of every intelligent Christian.

When at the fiat of Infinite Wisdom a universe sprang into existence; when the "proud waves of the deep were stayed," and the earth wore a rich mantle of verdure, fresh from the hand of its Creator;

When from the land of their captivity the children of Israel passed over the Red Sea on dry land,

and beheld their enemies engulfed beneath its returning waters, a choral anthem, composed by Miriam, the sister of Moses and Aaron, was then sung by the multitude, being in number six hundred thousand. David, the sweet singer of Israel, called upon the floods to clap their hands, and the hills to shout together for joy. And then in the ecstasy of his soul he exclaims, "O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise unto the God of our salvation." Again he bursts forth in strains like these:—"Let everything that

The services attending the dedication of Solomon's Temple were rendered still more impressive and grand by the introduction of music. From the account given us in Holy Writ there is every reason to conclude that the whole congregation must have joined in the song of praise which called down upon their heads the blessings of their

divine Protector. These are only a few among the many instances recorded in the Old Testament which seem to point directly toward congregational singing.

Let us now turn to the plains of Judah, and for a single moment transport ourselves to that eventful night when a whole multitude of the heavenly host singing with a loud voice, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men," appeared to the wondering shepherds and proclaimed the birth of our blessed Lord. We

cannot think that a part were silent while a "quartette," or select few were chanting the praises of the world's Redeemer.

When, after the lapse of thirty-three years, He who bore our griefs and carried our sorrows came to the closing scenes of his life; when, having celebrated for the last time the Jewish passover, he instituted the solemn ordinance of the Lord's Supper, and said to his disciples, "Do this in remembrance of me," *here*, we are told, they sang a hymn, and went out into the mount of Olives. *Te*

The apostle John, in his description of the New Jerusalem, speaks of a great multitude which no man can number, and represents them as praising God continually. If, then, music is to constitute so much of our blissful employment in heaven, why not, *each one of us*, begin it as best we can in the great congregation of our Lord in his church below?

Believing our proof to be conclusive, that congregational singing was the original method of ascribing praise to Almighty God, we now inquire concerning the means necessary to its adoption in our churches. Our inquiries shall be as brief, practical, and simple as possible:

1. What is the first step toward the introduction of congregational singing? We should provide hymn and tune books, and distribute them throughout every seat in the church.
2. In such books how should the tunes be ar-

ranged for the spirit and measure of the hymns? By placing three tunes on the left page and six hymns on the page opposite, taking great care that each of the six hymns is well adapted to each of the opposite tunes. One of the three tunes should be a "good old familiar one," which any promiscuous congregation can sing. By this arrangement we should have the music before us, and giving a variety of three tunes from which to select for each hymn.

4. How are we to awaken a general heartfelt interest in our hymns and tunes for praise? By holding in connection with the church, or prayer meeting where the congregation is small) a singing meeting every week, which shall be free to all, for the purpose of learning new tunes, and for general improvement in music. These meetings

5. How can congregational singing be the best and most practically carried out in our church service? After the reading of the hymn let the tune be played by the organist in a plain, simple style, so as to designate the tune and its movement; then the entire congregation join "lustily" in singing.

Such a course, if strictly adhered to, would prevent a thousand evils which are constantly occurring among the members of our choirs. The absence of one would not cause a failure in our songs of praise; and the place might even be filled by a stranger who from some other part of the country might accidentally come in to worship among

us, and who, without being obliged to pass through the ordeal of an introduction to the chorister, might gladden his own heart and aid us, as he mingles in our songs of praise. Thus our singing would become universal, and be stereotyped on the hearts of our people as the "Centenary offering" of the present year. Let all the worshippers who feel an interest in the common cause of our Master give their entire influence, their prayers and their voices to the attainment of an object which will not only harmonize our own

hearts, but through the blessing of God will be the means of cheering many a pilgrim on his way to the celestial city, and bring many a wandering soul to unite in the great triumphant song of redeeming love in the kingdom of glory.

Philip Phillips, in Christian Advocate.

A FACT—ITS PRINCIPLE.

In our interesting English correspondence this week a remark will be found that is worthy of

"It is astonishing what a deep-rooted objection there is to admit the bulk of the artisan and working class to the franchise, and equally astonishing how little this class seems to care about the privilege."

Probably our English aristocrats shrink as much from giving the ballot to greasy mechanics, as

American aristocrats do from giving it to odorous negroes. The time is not far distant when suffrage must have a better basis than trade, color, or smell, or color. But this was not our point. We made the quotation for the sake of the *last* clause. Here is a class in England, long unaccustomed to take part in public affairs, becoming so utterly indifferent to them as not to care even when a question is being agitated that vitally concerns them. Does the principle that underlies this fact in any way touch the question of lay representa-

tion in the Methodist Episcopal Church? The general indifference of the laity to the question must be admitted. We only ask how it is to be accounted for. Political inactivity in England explains political indifference; will not ecclesiastical inactivity in America explain ecclesiastical indifference? For ourselves, we do not question that had the laity of our church always participated in our legislation, they would be more deeply moved either for or against this great question.

WHAT I WANT.—A poor idolater in India traveled four hundred and eighty miles with spikes in his shoes, hoping thereby to find peace of mind. At last he met a missionary preaching that the "blood of Jesus cleanseth from all sin." The poor man's heart received the truth, and casting away his spiked sandals he cried, "I have found it! I have found it! This is what I want." Let us all trust in the same blood, and then help send

the news to those who vainly seek for peace through idols.

In the evening Rev. Alvra Hatch preached from John

16; "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life." The brother made a stirring appeal to sinners to come to Christ for salvation.

Wednesday morning the assembly was addressed by Antonio Arrighi, a student at Concord Union

He recited a poem "The Bible," and read Psalm lxxvi. 16; "Come and hear all ye that fear God," and will declare what he hath done for my soul." In the afternoon exercises were held preliminary to preaching, by Rev. A. P. Hatch, of N. H. Conference. Rain falling, however, prevented the anti-slavery meeting, but sermons were delivered in several of the tents. In the evening Rev. Kinman Atkinson preached from Acts xxvi. 28: "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."

Thursday morning Rev. S. Allen delivered a discourse from Mal. iii. 18; "Then shall ye return and

between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not." Thursday afternoon was rainy, and the red-dressed multitude betook themselves to various tents, where prayer or preaching meetings were held.

At this point your correspondent is compelled to leave the ground. Friday will doubtless be a day of good things at the meeting, as the storm has passed away, and the brethren will seek to make it the best day of the feast. The excellent manage-

gent, under Bro. F. Wormwood, deserves a passing notice. He has spared no pains to feed the multitude in the most satisfactory manner. Singing in public worship has been conducted in a happy manner by Bro. W. W. Keays, of South Berwick. The meeting has been well calculated to save souls.

O. M. COUSINS.

HAMILTON CAMP MEETING.

The children of John, surnamed Wesley, have

found written in the law which the Lord commanded by Moses, that the children of Israel should dwell in booths in the feast of the seventh month; and accordingly they have become famous in perpetuating this ancient religious custom. Many thousands of them, and of the people in the region round about, were to be found in the beautiful grove at Hamilton last week, the major part of whom spent the most thereof in the devout and earnest worship of the living God, through his son Jesus Christ.

Many, very many believers will remember the portion of their history included in this week's special Christian effort with gratitude unfeigned. We give as a reason for this opinion these reasons following: 1. The preaching, with scarce a qualifying remark, was of the selectest and most pertinent character, replete with the best practical and the least of merely speculative matter; 2. The social exercises, both in the tents and at the stand, bore the stamp of simple, direct earnestness for the

...otion of the work of God among the members of the church, as well as the world; 3. The good order and decorum characterizing the meeting; and about all that could be desired by the most sanguine.

In speaking of the specific results of the meeting we feel safe in saying, as the result of inquiries carefully made the last evening, (we could not remain till Saturday morning) that about seventy individuals were persuaded to begin a new life as converts to Christ, and many were quickened to

The Love Feast at about the hour of the magnificent sunset of Friday evening was a most glorious and thrilling occasion—some 200 persons speaking for Jesus in a little more than one hour.

The essential improvements effected on the premises during the past year by the Association elicited the most unqualified approbation of the friends—the half day and night of severe storm testing them the morning of the thanksgiving of some meetings.

thoroughly; so that this tent or camp meeting experience, so far as this place is concerned, will not be dreaded much by those who go to stay right through the week. Others may as well understand it first as last, that those who remain through storm and sunshine, are the least discommoded.

Rev. Dr. Thayer, who has had charge of the religious services, has performed his duties with great satisfaction to all the people.

The accommodations for boarding were of an unusually excellent character, and very great satisfac-

tion was expressed at the way in which Mr. Cook the caterer, of No. 1090 Washington St., performed his duties.

E. A. MANNING, Secretary of Meeting.

RELIGIOUS AND CHURCH INTELLIGENCE.

Rev. Thomas Ely writes: "On Sabbath last our Quarterly meetings at Harwich were seasons of more than ordinary interest. The congregations were large, serious and attentive. For some time

past a glorious work of religion has been spread over the town. It still continues, and will, I trust, until the entire community is brought under sacred influences. Our ministers are in active service and our people under marching orders, while the fields are white for the harvest. More than sixty have already passed from death unto life, while others are inquiring what they must do to be saved. Previously to the afternoon service at East Haddam, the preacher, Rev. D. J. Griffin, not being in orders, I preached a plain, vigorous, yet eloquent

The corner stone of a Methodist Church was laid in Austin, Nevada, with appropriate ceremonies on the 5th ult. There is no other house of worship in the city; \$50,000 have been raised to complete it.

A new M. E. Church is to be erected in Florida.

Ohio. The corner stone was laid on the 20th inst. by Rev. Dr. Reid, of the *Western Christian Advocate* officiating.

Bishop Clark, assisted by Rev. Dr. Wiley, of the *Ladies' Repository*, and Rev. C. M. Giffin, dedicated a church in Salem, Ohio, on the 5th inst.

Bishop Scott dedicated the lecture room of the Centenary M. E. Church in Lambertville, N. J., August 12. The church, it is expected, will be finished by December, at which time the members propose

presenting it to the Lord as a Centenary offering free from all the claims of man.

PERSONAL.

Bishops Ames and Clark will exchange places as presiding officers at the Central Ohio and North-west Indiana Conferences. Bishop Ames will preside at the latter Conference and Bishop Clark will be former.

Rev. George Lansing Taylor has been engaged

by the *Brooklyn Times* to furnish for its Saturday evening editions a digest of the religious news items of the preceding week.

Rev. A. B. Earle, the evangelist, has been invited to San Francisco to hold a series of meetings. A evangelical denominations unite in the request.

Hon. S. U. F. Odell, superintendent of the Sandwich Islands, has been called to "do the honors" connected with the visit of Queen Emma to this country.

John G. Saxe, the well known poet, received the honorary degree of LL.D. at the recent commencement of Middlebury College, Vt.

Rev. S. E. Hamilton sailed from New York for San Francisco on the 21st inst., having been transferred from the Central Illinois to the California Conference.

Philip Phillips is to conduct the singing at the Provincial Sunday School Convention, to be held at Montreal, September 4th, 5th and 6th.

The *New Orleans Advocate* announced that H. G. Jackson, one of the assistant editors of the paper, who was severely wounded during the riot, has so far improved as to be considered out of danger.

Professor John A. Porter, of New Haven, died at his residence, Saturday, the 23rd, aged 43. He was a native of New York, and in 1823. For twelve years he was professor of Chemistry in Yale College, and for the last three years in the University of New York. His funeral took place Monday last.

The Western announces the safe arrival in San Francisco, of Bishop Kingsley, on the 15th.

Charles Augustus Dwyer, L.L.D., of Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, died at Northampton, of dysentery, on the 22nd inst., at the age of 73.

Richmond, a New York capitalist, owning a great estate in the N. Y. Central Railroad, and a large interest in the Hudson River Road, died at New York city, on Monday last.

Books and Periodicals Received.

Journal of the Niagara, New York, Ray Quinte Annual, 1866.

The Abolition of Slavery for July and August. Boston: American Society.

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Political.
Ex-Presidents Buchanan, Pierce and Fillmore endorse the President's party.
The Southern loyalists have issued a call to Northern men who sympathize with them to meet them in Philadelphia, Sept. 25th.
Speaking of the Convention of Loyal Southerners, the New York World calls it "The mean white Convention."
The statement is erroneous, that Mr. Hunt has been elected Congressional delegate from Colorado. Mr. Chilcote, radical Republican, is elected.
The National Union Executive Committee will hold a meeting at Philadelphia, Sept. 2d. One member refuses to sign the call because he endorses the President.
A Republican Union Convention of the people of Eastern Pennsylvania was held at Reading, Aug. 22. They adopted resolutions thanking the soldiers, approving the Constitutional amendment passed by Congress, and disapproving the policy of "Andrew Johnson, the man made President by J. Wilkes Booth."
Gov. Parsons, of Alabama, is electioneering in England, for the Johnson party. During the war he reported favorably in the Alabama Legislature, on a bill punishing Abolitionists with death for enlisting in the Union army.
The late rebel papers deny the assertion of the Johnson convention address, that the Southern people were rebels, and that the Federal Government fought a defensive war. They claim that the States had a right to secede. But as the success of the new party will benefit the South, that is the late secessionists, they feel compelled to work with that party.
The Missouri delegation of the Johnson Philadelphia Convention visited the President, on the 20th inst. They asked office, and requested him to force the admission of the rebels to the ballot-box, because the State law excludes them (Where was their fear of encroachments on State rights?) The President assured them that his friends should have the federal offices, and as to the State laws, Gen. Hancock would give the President's party such assistance as he legitimately could.
The Republican State Committee of Massachusetts has appointed a large number of the prominent men of the State to meet the Convention of Loyal Southerners at Philadelphia, Aug. 3. Among the appointees are Gov. Bullock, Lieut. Gov. Claflin, Senators Sumner and Wilson, Gen. Butler, John G. Whittier, O. W. Holmes.
The Connecticut Union Republican Committee has appointed Gov. Hawley, Ex-Govs. Dutton, Buckingham and Holly, Gen. O. S. Ferry and other prominent men to the Philadelphia Convention.
The people of Maine have entered actively upon the fall political campaign, and distinguished speakers for and against the war are engaged by the parties.
The Democratic Convention, at Worcester, Mass., on the 13th and 14th of November. Such a show as takes place but once in a third of a century.
The police report of Mobile, for the month of July shows that, with a nearly equal population of two races, there were 218 arrests of whites to 107 of blacks.
Ex-Gov. Wise, of Virginia, says God has torn from the South its Union. Slavery, by fire and sword and the drawn sword of the destroying angel.
The project of establishing a Republican newspaper in Mobile has been abandoned, the editors having received several anonymous letters and various informal notifications that they would be killed.
Kansas dispatches confirm the news that the Indians have commenced hostilities in the State. On the 17th and 20th of July, and all the men were killed and the women and children carried off.
A. S. Assistant Assessors have been officially notified that they will be immediately dismissed if they become candidates for any elective office; or if they might use their official position to procure votes.
There is an ice manufacturing company at Shreveport, La., working on the ammonia vapor principle, which has declared dividends for three months, at the rate of, eighteen per cent. The company manufactures 8,000 pounds of ice per day.
Gen. Howard has ordered the stoppage of rations to refugees and freedmen, after the 1st of October, except to those in regularly organized hospitals, and to orphan asylums now existing for refugees and freedmen.
Gen. Alfred L. Lee, of Kansas, stated, a few days since, that Gen. Sheridan remarked to him, in connection with the New Orleans butchery, that "these rebels are willing to come back if they can place the rebel flag right alongside of the Stars and Stripes. They want to preach rebellion."
The colored American Baptist Missionary Convention was in session in Richmond, Va., last week. They adopted resolutions consolidating with the Southern and Southern Baptist Convention, and a resolution declaring colonization detrimental to the interests of the colored people, and claiming equality and natural and civil rights.
It is supposed that it requires a fraction less than a third of a second for a wave of electricity to pass from Heart's Content to Valerita Bay; but this wave and other political scientific interest, was not decided by the careful and prolonged experiments to be instituted by Mr. George W. Dean, of Fall River, of the U. S. Coast Survey service.
The Lowell corporations, whose united capital amount to \$13,000,000, employ the immense number of 468,705 operatives. Of the operatives employed 215 are women, and 487 are men. The number of operatives employed in 1855, and 1,000,000 yards of goods of different kinds are manufactured every week. The mills consume 694,000 lbs. of cotton, and 106,000 lbs. of clean wool every week.
A Workingmen's National Convention was held in Baltimore, last week. Resolutions were passed respecting the organization of a National Labor Party to secure the election of men pledged to the cause of that party, and to make eight hours a day's work; discontinuance of strikes, except as a last resort; and expressing pleasure at the presence of delegates from the South.
A Fenian meeting was held at Framingham, Mass., Aug. 25th. Gen. John O'Neill said that the cause of Fenianism was the cause of human liberty everywhere. "We have advocated liberty to the oppressed, and we have not been consistent, and would not refuse it to any man in the world." Senator Wilson, of Massachusetts, said that if that was Fenianism then he was a Fenian.
Dates from Havana to the 18th inst. state that the slave trade to the increase to an alarming extent; 700 Africans had been landed at one time, and it is said through a bribe to a high officer.
At the prorogation of Parliament, on the 10th inst., the Queen's speech did not mention the subject of reform, the very subject which brought the new Ministry into power.
King Victor Emmanuel has issued a decree proclaiming an amnesty to political exiles and prisoners throughout Italy and his dominions. This decree includes Mazzini as well as others of lesser prominence.
The English Government says that the British navy is in a bad condition. The Times is very angry because of this condition of things after some \$350,000,000 had been spent on the navy in seven years past.
On the 21st inst., the United States officers were receiving ovations everywhere from the Russian Government, merchant princes and the popular. The Emperor has honored them with the review of 50,000 of the Guards.
The Turks have commenced hostilities against the Christians in Candia. Several consulates, especially those of Holland, Sweden and the United States, having suffered much damage, have protested. The insurgents, 25,000 strong, have proposed to the Emperor.

Weekly Summary.

Domestic.

Queen Emma will visit Boston.

Local men of Louisiana have signed a petition asking Congress for protection.

Prospect for an ample supply of fall feed was never better than now.

Over \$500,000 were shipped from England for corn to the 21st inst.

A Selma, Alabama, paper mentions four factories that are in process of erection at the South.

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